(c) As per information received from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) all schools affiliated to the Board including Delhi schools, are following the syllabus prescribed by it.

Amendment in transfer guidelines in KVs

3219. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has amended/is going to amend the existing transfer guidelines for its employees; and

(b) if so, the details of amendments made/being made, alongwith the justification, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Some amendments in the existing Transfer Guidelines are being contemplated. Final decision is yet to be taken in this regard.

Expeditions to Antarctica

3220. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times expeditions have been launched to Antarctica;

(b) the main purpose for launching the expeditions;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to launch any expedition to Antarctica, in the near future; and

(d) if so, when and the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) this Department is organizing annual Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica since 1981 and twenty one expeditions have been successfully launched so far.

(b) The main purpose of launching expedition are:

— To promote gamut of polar scientific activities in the country to ensure a perceptible and influential presence of India in Antarctica.

— To uphold our strategic interests in the global framework of nations in the southern continent and the surrounding oceans expressed through our consultative status in the Antarctic Treaty.

— To provide a platform to facilitate the Indian scientists to conduct contemporary research using Antarctica as a uniquely places laboratory by adopting a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary approach on a national level.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is planned to launch XXII expedition to Antarctica during the year 2002-2003. All logistics and scientific preparations have already been started for this expedition.

Sub-ways at railway level crossings

†3221. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway level crossings without gates, throughout the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bridges or sub-ways are proposed to be constructed on all such crossings;

(c) if so, the time-schedule fixed for completion of such construction work on unmanned railway crossings, and the budget provisions made therefor;

(d) whether any co-operation is proposed to be sought from the State Governments also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The number of Railway level crossings without gates throughout the country is 21792.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.